

Big Bend

Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



May 29 – June 11, 2016

Sunday, May 29

9:30 AM Program – “Bear Country” Whether you are staying at the Lodge, camping, or hiking in the Chisos Mountains or foothills you are in *Bear Country*. Join Ranger M. Lavender to learn more about how to enjoy Bear Country safely and agreeably with the unique population of Mexican Black Bears that make Big Bend home. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. 45 minutes.

Friday, June 3

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “History Beneath Your Feet” Big Bend is rich with history, including the very trails we hike on. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn more about what the Civilian Conservation Corps built and how we maintain these hiking trails using similar tools and construction methods. Meet at the Lost Mine trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and wear good hiking shoes. 1.5 miles. 1 hour.

9:00 PM Evening Program – “A Fundamental Purpose” One hundred years ago, far-thinking citizens and legislators fought for the creation of an agency whose mission is to conserve wild, beautiful, and historic places in the United States. Join Ranger B. Smith for an evening’s discourse on the National Park Service. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Sunday, June 5

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Meeting Mulciber” Who is Mulciber and what does he have to do with the Chisos Mountains? Join Ranger B. Smith to meet Mulciber and discover his part in the geology of these desert peaks. Meet at the Lost Mine Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1.5 miles. 1.5 hours.

Monday, June 6

10:30 PM Evening Program – “Star-gazing with Binoculars and the Naked Eye” You don’t need a telescope to locate and enjoy many of the natural wonders in the night skies over Big Bend National Park. Join Volunteer R. Wonite for a laser-guided tour of the more prominent stars, star clusters, and nebulae in the night sky, weather permitting. Meet at the pullout at Mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars and/or a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

Friday, June 10

8:00 PM Photography Program – “You’re Not Ansel Adams, But You Could Be...” Photography in National Parks can be a rewarding experience, a lasting memory, or just a way to document a place in time. Simple techniques will help you get the most out of your camera, be it digital or film. Regardless of format, the pretty view you’re attempting to capture may not be what you think it is... Join Ranger B. Smith for a photographic and resource discussion. Meet at the pull out at mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Bring a camera, tripod, and a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

Saturday June 11

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “History Beneath Your Feet” Big Bend is rich with history, including the very trails we hike on. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn more about what the Civilian Conservation Corps built and how we maintain these hiking trails using similar tools and construction methods. Meet at the Lost Mine trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and wear good hiking shoes. 1.5 miles. 1 hour.

9:00 PM Evening Program – “Big Bend’s Top 10” What makes Big Bend special or unique among national parks? What fascinating plants, animals, and fossils can be found nowhere else? Why are we one of the most revisited National Parks? Join Ranger J. Jurado for a look at the top ten things Big Bend can boast. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.